

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DRC-01 /049 W

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R 111307Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1323

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, EC

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BRANIFF REQUEST FOR INCREASED FREQUENCIES

REF: STATE 113477

1. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH BRANIFF (DEMURIAS) ABOUT THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION'S DENIAL OF PERMISSION TO BRANIFF TO OPERATION ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES THROUGH QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL BEGINNING JULY 1 (REFTL), DCM AND EMBOFF MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS JOSE NAJERA AND TO DAC COLONEL JAIME SUAREZ. NAJERA WAS IN FULL AGREEMENT THAT THERE IS A PRIMA FACIE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS AND HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ECUATORIANA'S RESUMPTION OF SERVICE IS COMPLETELY INDEFINITE. HE OFFERED TO INSTRUCT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REP ON THE CIVIL AVIATION COUNCIL TO BRING UP BRANIFF'S REQUEST AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

2. SUAREZ TOOK THE POSITION THAT AS DAC HE LACKS AUTHORITY OVER FREQUENCIES AND SUGGESTED THAT BRANIFF REITERATE ITS REQUEST IN A COMMUNICATION TO THE INTERMINISTERIAL CIVIL AVIATION COUNCIL (OF WHICH HE IS SECRETARY) SO THAT IT WILL BE CONSIDERED AT ITS NEXT MEETING. SUAREZ SAID BRANIFF'S IS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL PENDING REQUESTS FOR INCREASED FREQUENCIES AND, WHILE NOT DIRECTLY ASSERTING THAT PROTECTION OF ECUATORIANA'S FUTURE TRAFFIC IS HIS UPPERMOST CONCERN, HE MENTIONED THE "IMBALANCE"

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BETWEEN ECUATORIANA AND BRANIFF FREQUENCIES AND POINTS OF ENTRY.

HE MUSED THAT THE COUNCIL MIGHT BE ABLE TO AUTHORIZE A PROVISIONAL INCREASE IN FREQUENCIES PENDING ECUATORIAN'S RESUMPTION OF SERVICE. SINCE DEMURIAS HAD INDICATED TO US THAT PROVISIONAL AUTHORIZATION WOULD BE SATISFACTORY, WE DID NOT DEMUR WHEN SUAREZ RAISED THIS POSSIBILITY. SUAREZ ALSO VOLUNTEERED THAT CAB'S LITTON HAD TELEPHONED HIM TO EXPRESS CONCERN AT THE DENIAL OF ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES.

3. COMMENT: BELIEVE WE HAVE MADE THE U.S. INTEREST SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR AND THAT NEXT MOVE IS UP TO BRANIFF AND THE COUNCIL. ECUATORIANA'S LIMBO STATUS SINCE THE FAA GROUNDED ITS AIRCRAFT ON APRIL 15 OBVIOUSLY MAKES THIS A DIFFICULT TIME TO GET CIVIL AVIATION DECISIONS. GOE JUST DOESN'T KNOW WHEN, IN WHAT FORM OR ON WHAT SCALE ITS INTERNATIONAL CARRIER WILL BE PREPARED TO RESUME OPERATIONS. THIS BEING THE CASE, A PROVISIONAL INCREASE IN BRANIFF FREQUENCIES MAY BE MOST THAT WE CAN HOPE FOR RIGHT NOW.
BREWSTER

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